Office of the Minister
Bureau du Ministre

Ministry of Health
Ministère de la Santé

Hepburn Block
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2C4
416/965-2421

Édifice Hepburn
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2C4
416/965-2421

July 26, 1989

Mr. David Reville, M.P.P.
Riverdale
Room 348, Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A2

Dear David:

This is a response to your letter concerning assistance for residents of the province who have environmental sensitivities.

People who are ill, for any reason, have needs that require medical and social support. It is, therefore, imperative that health care providers continue to improve their ability to assist those who are ill - appropriately, sensitively and knowledgeably.

The initiatives I announced on February 10th, research into aspects of environmental hypersensitivity and the establishment of a liaison committee to assist researchers, are intended to increase knowledge about the diagnosis and treatment of sensitivities. It is estimated that 70 per cent of those who have environmental sensitivities are sensitive to foods.

The research being undertaken is intended to bring results in the short term and add to current knowledge. This knowledge will doubtless be of assistance to other ministries providing assistance to people with sensitivities.

The health care system provides the same benefits to all residents of Ontario. Benefits are extended as more is learned about the appropriate diagnosis and efficacious treatment of all types of illness. As well, the Ontario Health Insurance Plan continues to provide health care benefits for residents who require treatment not provided in Ontario. This has been the policy of the Ministry for many years.

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Mr. David Reville, M.P.P.

Currently, there are a number of physicians in Ontario who are knowledgeable concerning environmental hypersensitivities and it does not appear to be necessary to take the action Nova Scotia has taken to secure the expertise.

I can assure you that we will continue our efforts to learn how to provide for the needs of those who are ill, including the hypersensitive. I certainly understand your special concern for their needs.

Sincerely,

Elinor Caplan, M.P.P.
Oriole
Minister